



Procurement News - Near and FAR

Volume II, No. 2

May/June 1997

Introduction

Welcome to the May/June edition of Treasury's Procurement News - Near and **FAR**. This issue highlights acquisition reform standdown day activities conducted by bureau procurement offices throughout Treasury, actions underway to address Performance Measures Action Team (PMAT) survey results, procurement streamlining success stories, and measures underway to comply with new procurement statutory requirements.

The editor for the next newsletter will be Angelie Jackson and the deadline for articles will be June 30. Proposed articles as well as comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter can be provided to Angelie Jackson at 622-0245 or "angelie.jackson@treas.sprint.com".

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TREASURY NOTES

by Robert A. Welch
Procurement Executive

Appreciation for Progressive Efforts

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you whose participation and efforts resulted in the success stories noted in this edition, including the procurement stand down day, procurement improvement action plans and procurement streamlining related activities. I urge you to build on these efforts and strive towards achieving more procurement streamlining success stories that your customers will value. I'm sure you've noticed the positive results of your procurement streamlining successes, including reduced procurement processing times, cost savings, improved contractor support and positive customer feedback. Continuation of such achievements and results will prepare you to meet future challenges as our organizations and

job roles change. So let's work together to share and learn from our efforts and make Treasury a model agency for procurement innovation.

Acquisition Reform Stand- Down Day

by Darryl Grant

Treasury's first Acquisition Reform Stand-Down Day was a tremendous success. Bureau facilitators succeeded in creating an environment in which Government employees from various fields as well as representatives from commercial industry learned and shared ideas regarding the latest acquisition reform initiatives. The following facilitators are commended for the outstanding effort they put forth in conducting training activities for their respective bureaus:

U.S. Customs Service: Martha Heggstad, Jim Sweat; Internal Revenue Service: Sylvia Ball, Nick Nayak; U.S. Mint: Carolyn Anderson; Alcohol, Tobacco and

Firearms: Angela Parker, April Lowe; Financial Management Service: Cathy P. Riddick; Bureau of Engraving & Printing: Jesse Robertson, Dan O'Brien, Denise Wright, Gordon Hackley; Comptroller of the Currency: Richard Miller.

Training activities held were as follows:

U.S. Customs Service

Hosted by the Procurement Division on March 19, the day was dedicated to promoting information sharing, demonstration and discussion of the changes in procurement that resulted from implementation of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, Clinger-Cohen Act, and the National Performance Review initiatives. Procurement and administrative representatives from Customs, the Departmental offices, other Treasury bureaus, the Small Business Administration, and the contractor community attended. The sessions included discussions of the automated purchase card system, simplified acquisitions, small business program, seized property, performance-based contracting, business area analysis, procurement innovations, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) information, interservice agreements and procurement automation. In addition, procurement and technical representatives presented a skit on performance based service contracting to convey information about this initiative.



Internal Revenue Service

Led by Sylvia Ball and under the direction of Nick Nayak of the Treasury Acquisition Institute, training activities were held on April 8 and April 24 for procurement personnel from IRS' Office of Tax Systems Acquisition and Office of Contract Administration. Topics ranged from performance-based service contracting to task/delivery order techniques and the new rules in cost and price analysis. Operating as technical/contracting teams, IRS employees sharpened their skills in using these vehicles to streamline the acquisition process and increase overall productivity. Additional sessions have been scheduled for IRS' Office of Procurement Operations in June and July in preparing commercial item solicitations/contracts and applying Simplified Acquisition Procedures (SAP)/Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET) techniques.

U.S. Mint

The U.S. Mint observed Acquisition Reform Stand-Down Day by having a potluck followed by a seminar on Integrated Product Teams and a presentation by one of the attorneys from the Office of Legal Counsel on the Mint's exempt general provisions. Given the positive feedback from the procurement personnel in attendance, the Mint plans to follow up with several more seminars on various procurement reforms and streamlining initiatives.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

On March 20, ATF conducted training on commerciality determinations and streamlining for its Administrative Support staff and Acquisition Division. This training session consisted of 30 to 40 employees from the bureau's field offices as well as headquarters. The feedback from these employees was very positive. Everyone left the training sessions with an appreciation and awareness of the new simplified acquisition procedures.

On April 9, four employees from the Acquisition Division conducted training at the bureau's National Research Laboratory in Rockville, MD. The audience in this training session consisted of special agents, administrative support personnel and telecommunication specialists. This training session was also very successful.

Following completion of ATF's Stand-Down Day activities, the Acquisition Division received numerous calls from employees with gracious comments as a result of their attendance in these training sessions.

Financial Management Service (FMS)

FMS' two Stand-Down Day programs held on March 18 and 19 were an outstanding success. FMS' marketing plan began with posters, electronic mail, word-of-mouth and a special edition news release made available to all FMS employees, including their financial centers around the country.

Using several learning games, FMS procurement personnel and its customers participated in games oriented around topics ranging from justifications for other than full and open competition and simplified acquisition thresholds to past performance and commercial item purchases. Games included a puzzle mixer, a past performance "Family Feud" game, a purchase card matching game and a commercial item "Price Is Right" game. The past performance game was followed by a representative from Universal High Tech, Inc. discussing the success of the past performance initiative in his organization.

Feedback received from participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)

Led by four enthusiastic facilitators, the BEP conducted training activities on March 19 attended by procurement, technical, program and contractor representatives. Topics included integrated product teams, oral presentations, alternative dispute resolution, best value, task order contracting, performance-based service contracting, commerciality determination, practical applications using the Internet and a market research demonstration. Comments received from participants were very positive.

Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)

The OCC Acquisition Reform Stand-Down Day activities held on March 18 focused on reinventing procurement operations in an environment of agency restructuring. Acquisition planning was revisited and a new streamlining measure was implemented to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement process. A 45-minute professionally produced video was viewed regarding OCC restructuring, followed by discussions. An extensive brainstorming and problem-solving session was conducted on the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) function at the OCC. This resulted in excellent and enthusiastic participation and contributions which are evolving into 1997 projects to improve COTR performance.

Congratulations and thanks to all for a successful first Treasury Acquisition Stand-Down Day. (Darryl can be reached at 622-0378)

Benefits of Professional Associations

by Daniel F. O'Brien
BEP



In the January/February issue of Procurement News - Near and FAR, I was pleased to see articles by Bob Welch and Kevin Whitfield mentioning the benefits of membership and involvement in professional procurement associations. Up to this point, there has been a discouraging lack of overt support and encouragement from managers and executives concerning such activities. This has led me to wonder how many Government procurement types are truly aware of the benefits that can accrue from active involvement in such professional associations.

As Mr. Welch pointed out, professional associations offer excellent opportunities to network with other procurement specialists to find out how other agencies are handling certain procurement issues, and what current best practices are. Professional associations also offer excellent training and educational programs, ranging from brown bag lunches to monthly dinner meetings, from evening workshops to multiple-day seminars. Many of these training and educational opportunities are significantly cheaper than comparable ones offered from other sources. In the case of brown bag lunches or evening workshops, most of these are free. The only cost to the agency is an hour or two of an employee's time. Since the agency would benefit from a better educated employee, why not record the time as official training or education, or at worst administrative leave?

For the individual, the benefits are much greater. Involvement in professional associations offer the opportunity to acquire managerial and organizational skills, as well as policy planning and implementation, and public speaking skills. Many associations also offer the opportunity to acquire varying levels of professional certification. As Mr. Whitfield pointed out, competition for jobs, promotions, and key work assignments will only get tougher. The presence of a professional certification can be a qualifier. Not only does it denote a wide degree of knowledge in basic core areas, it also signifies personal initiative and achievement. As a service to both National Association of Purchasing Managers (NAPM) and National Contract Management Association (NCMA), I have tracked professional employment opportunities for procurement professionals in the metropolitan area for the past three years. I have seen a marked increase in the number of opportunities specifying either advanced degrees, professional association memberships, professional certifications, or some combination thereof.

However, perhaps the greatest benefit to be derived from involvement in a professional association is the opportunity to acquire leadership skills. The backbone of professional associations such as the NCMA, the NAPM, and the National Institute of Government Purchasers (NIGP) are their volunteers. Nothing gets done in these associations without volunteers. These are not paid positions, but rather people who want the opportunity to take the responsibility (and risk) of planning, organizing, managing, and administering various programs and activities. These are leadership skills the average person would never get a chance to acquire on the job. Yet these very skills will help the individual become more productive, more capable, and more valuable to the employer, and certainly more

marketable. These opportunities are available now, for the asking.

I know that some people have expressed to me the feeling that they are already well enough off without having to bother with this. They obviously have a pretty high comfort level. All I can say is, I hope nothing changes in your life to upset your comfort level, but I wouldn't bet on it. (Dan can be reached at 874-0133 or daniel.obrien@bep.treas.gov)

PROCUREMENT STREAMLINING SUCCESS STORIES



BEP Completes ADR Success Story

*by Ernest Dilworth
BEP*

In May 1994, the BEP awarded a contract to a foreign firm for the manufacture and delivery of equipment to support the United States postage stamp production program. The contract required the equipment to be delivered in October 1995 and operational by December 1995. The equipment was not actually delivered until June 1996 and operation did not start until August 1996. The failure of the contractor to make delivery according to the contract caused BEP direct damages in the postage stamp program.

BEP and the contractor had been in discussions to determine an equitable amount of damages caused by the late delivery but could not reach a mutual agreement. In November 1996, both parties agreed to use Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) procedures to resolve the delay issue and began working on an agreement setting forth the terms and conditions. The parties agreed to use non-binding mediation as the ADR forum. The mediation agreement listed the location where the parties agreed to conduct the proceedings, identified the issues to be resolved, and outlined the cost of the mediator. The agreement also included a schedule of exchanging documents outlining each party's position. The agreement stipulated that if the parties could not reach a settlement on the issues, the mediator would issue a written decision. Each party agreed that the written decision would be final and binding, unless, with two business days following receipt of the decision, it was rejected.

The actual ADR process was held in Washington, D.C. on January 22 and 23, 1997. The parties did not reach a final settlement and in accordance with the Mediation Agreement, the mediator issued a written decision. The

written decision was accepted by both parties.

ADR allowed a cost effective alternative to litigation in which BEP and the contractor resolved a critical issue. An adversarial relationship was avoided along with hostilities that normally follow the litigation process. The ADR process was successful and facilitated continuation of a respectful relationship in resolving this dispute as well as with future contracts. (Ernest can be reached at 874-2677 or ernest.dilworth@bep.treas.gov)

Initial Contractor Selected for the Treasury Distributed Processing Infrastructure (TDPI) Program

*by Jim Williams
IRS*



The TDPI program is the successor acquisition to the Treasury Multiuser Acquisition Contract (TMAC). It will fulfill IRS' continuing need for all server and workstation hardware and software; and will be available for use by all Treasury bureaus. In December 1994, this acquisition was pledged to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to be conducted in the spirit of full and open competition with industry. This acquisition is being conducted under the General Services Administration's (GSA) Trail Boss Program.

The TDPI program will establish Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA) with existing Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contractors for commercial-off-the-shelf hardware and software. On February 12, 1997, Sylvest Management Systems Corporation, an 8(a) vendor, with Sun Microsystems as a major supplier, was notified that they were selected as the apparent successful BPA holder for TDPI's Category I requirements. This BPA will be the first of a series under the TDPI program. Sylvest's offered a 29.3% discount off its GSA FSS contract, and the TDPI's program's use of additional FSS contractors is expected to result in similar cost savings to end users. In addition, as FSS contractors are no longer constrained by maximum order limitations that were imposed by GSA, TDPI awardees can accept customer orders of any size. Additional information regarding TDPI can be obtained by contacting John Ely, the Director of IRS' Office of Information Systems Acquisition, at 283-1410. or (john.ely@irs.ccmil.gov)

Bureaus Improve Procurement Operations

by Terri T. Toplisek and Joan Tuenge (U.S. Mint)

Treasury procurement offices analyzed the data from the performance measurement surveys and prepared individual Procurement Improvement Action Plans during March 1996. The plans outlined the bureaus' goals for improving procurement operations and better serving customers.

During November, the Treasury Office of Procurement (OP) desk officers contacted their bureaus and learned about improvements that were realized in the procurement offices. They checked again during March and were so pleased with the results that they decided to share them with you! A special t-h-a-n-k y-o-u to the bureaus for sharing their successes with the desk officers.

A summary of the improvements and innovations that have been achieved follows this introduction. These are only short summaries; however, we encourage you to contact the bureaus for details if you are interested in learning more.

Treasury's performance measurement survey cycle is well underway. The Mint assembled a team and conducted a mass mailing of customer and procurement employee surveys on March 10. Completed surveys were returned to the Mint in large batches during the first two weeks, then diminished. The Mint is busy entering the data and will compile the glyphs and spreadsheets (raw data) for each bureau. Narrative comments submitted by customers will be compiled separately by OCC.

Our goal is to distribute the raw data by the end of May. Additional analyses will follow. If you have not completed your employee survey, the Mint will continue to accept them after the April 18 due date. (terri.toplisek@treas.sprint.com)

March 1997 Summary of Treasury Procurement Accomplishments

Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) has identified reorganizing, staffing, and training as their priorities. The reorganization has occurred and ATF is currently hiring two purchasing agents and a contract specialist. ATF has a contract tracking system and a system for individual development plans. All employees have either met Career Management Handbook training requirements or are scheduled for the classes. ATF has completed preliminary requirements analysis for procurement automation and has prepared a draft order to expand the purchase card program. In providing support for the Atlanta bombing incident investigation, a purchase card was issued to a contract specialist on site with a single purchase limit of \$100,000. As a result of this effort, Rocky Mountain

BankCard System has agreed to implement new emergency procedures to respond to similar situations.

The Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP) has determined that 90% of its purchase orders have been awarded within 30 days during FY 97. Various training for BEP's customers has occurred in the areas of the small business program; COTR functions in Architect and Engineering (A&E) construction; task order contracts; streamlining; commercial items; and oral technical



proposals. The Customer Service Team surveyed internal and external customers and will meet to discuss survey results. The BEP has taken positive steps to ensure that commercial item contracting is fully used. Internal policy has been drafted which will require offices to obtain approval from the Technology Investment Committee, in the form of a waiver, to procure non-commercial items. During this fiscal year, BEP has awarded two commercial item contracts. BEP has completed revisions to the draft Treasury ADR Handbook that will be submitted to the Department for review. They have also completed a Procurement Instruction Memorandum on ADR that has been forwarded to the Department for release.

The Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) established a research center to focus on customer service through customer education and their internal business perspective. BPD's research center allows customers to access various vendor information. The center houses a PC with peripherals and uses CD-ROM capability to research vendor sources. Two training classes were held in March. Customers have responded favorably, so a third session has also been scheduled to reach all interested employees. BPD has provided further guidance to program offices on preparing statements of work. Formal training in this area is planned for later in the fiscal year.

Customs' Simplified Acquisition Administration pilot program has garnered high customer satisfaction. Numerous opportunities to correct vendor problems have been encountered that previously would not have been discovered in a timely manner. Over 650 purchase orders for goods and equipment deliveries were administered in FY 96. This portion is being fully implemented in FY 97 and a program for administering services is being simultaneously developed/tested. A Business Area Analysis (BAA) Team is charged with the short-term objective of conducting best practice studies to identify off-the-shelf products that can be used as interim solutions for tracking

and reporting purposes for acquisition and property processes. An Innovation Team has also been formed to look at current public and private reform initiatives, and to recommend improvements to the procurement process. Customs' Automated Purchase Card System will be improved to allow approving officials to review cardholder monthly transactions on-line and will eliminate the need to review a paper statement from the bank. Procurement Net is an on-line (accessible via the Internet) bulletin board, presently under development, that will provide a mechanism for copies of solicitations to be down-loaded.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) has 11 Procurement Review Teams (PRTs) to formulate specifications, quality assurance plans, independent Government cost estimates, and technical evaluation plans for service procurements. The recently issued instruction pamphlet on how to complete a purchase requisition is now being used in the management development training seminar for new FLETC managers. Responses to the customer survey, sent with all purchase orders, have fallen off since the last report, and FLETC representatives are renewing efforts to respond to the survey comments and to increase responses. The Local Area Network (LAN) facsimile system and voice mail implementation have been delayed due to software problems, but are still planned for this fiscal year.

Financial Management Service (FMS) successfully established a contractor past performance database, which was recently commended by Steve Kelman, and are training their customers on past performance evaluation requirements. Such evaluations are being used to notify all contractors of the top performers and areas where performance can be improved. FMS is also streamlining its procurement processes through increased usage of purchase cards and through such methods as oral proposals, use of service contracts that cross fiscal years, and commercial item acquisitions. Further, FMS continues to focus on meeting its customer oriented goals. They are doing so by training their staff in the latest Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) procurement changes and by examining all available avenues for streamlining and providing quality service to their customers. In addition, their electronic bulletin board, which their customers can access, is kept updated with their latest requirements and the latest FAR changes and procurement related forms.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) - The Customer Service Center is playing a key role in the transition to the

Integrated Procurement System (IPS)/Requisition Tracking System (RTS), which will provide greater information to customers concerning their requisitions. The IPS/RTS will improve customer service by enabling customers to enter requisitions and access status information electronically. Transition to IPS has begun in the National Office and the focus is on training all users and working the "bugs" out of the system. IRS has decentralized the Purchase Card Program and has realized a dramatic decrease in purchase orders. A recent audit gave the contract administration function overall high marks. IRS has: improved subcontracting plan monitoring; reduced the number of overage contracts; implemented FASA past performance requirements; and increased monitoring of interagency agreements.

The Mint has realized outstanding success in its supplier partnership initiatives. Mint has issued its first Product Quality Plan and a Supplier Partnership Manual which describe the Mint's quality assurance expectations and their commitment to continuous improvement. They are developing a supplier performance reporting system in concert with an awards program; holding regular communication meetings with active suppliers to work together on recurring quality issues; and working with selected suppliers to establish "ship to stock" control plans. Mint is implementing a failure analysis tracking system to ensure significant customer issues are continually addressed, and they continue to seek new sources to provide needed capabilities of their critical production materials. The procurement office worked closely with legal counsel and issued a set of Mint general provisions with contract terms that are more reflective of accepted commercial practices. Mint has also hired an outside consultant to analyze their copper buying practices and to ensure that they are obtaining the most competitive and optimum pricing. They have published an information booklet to suppliers entitled "Doing Business with the United States Mint."

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) - The Acquisition Services' (AQS) major project of implementing its new contracting approach has gained extensive external recognition in the January publication of the *Nash & Cibinic Report*, and subsequent recognition by Steve Kelman, Administrator, OFPP; and Bob Welch, Treasury's Senior Procurement Executive. These accolades have further assisted OCC's internal implementation as OCC's customers are now embracing the new contracting approach. Richard Miller, OCC's Bureau Chief Procurement Officer, provided a presentation and consultation session to senior management in the



Information Resources Department on how they could adopt OCC customer service procurement strategies in delivering better IT services to its customers. AQS conducts face-to-face consultations with its customers on newly conceptualized requirements. This practice has led to earlier planning intervention by contract specialists.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) had no new information to report since its November 1996 update. They did; however, state that they are continuing to work on implementation of their plan.

The U.S. Secret Service's (USSS) Procurement Division representatives have initiated some significant customer service initiatives. A Customer Service Committee has been established. The Procurement Division has also effected advances in automation: (1) they are able to access the CBD through the Internet and are eliminating delays in CBD announcements since they have real time feedback on CBD submission acceptance; (2) they are in the process of establishing a database using Laserfiche software that can be used for analysis of repetitive buys, and will contain a list of vendors and other procurement history; and (3) they are discussing the use of the IRS procurement automation with IRS representatives. In reissuing their administrative Contract Manual, the Procurement Division included several customer oriented initiatives. Contract specialists and purchasing agents are required to check monthly with all of their customers and meet with them quarterly to ascertain ways to improve service and to obtain feedback on contractor performance.

POLICY CORNER

Treasury's PARTNERSHIPS '97 Conference

by T.J. Garcia

On May 1, 1997, Treasury sponsored its fourth annual regional PARTNERSHIPS event for expanding opportunities with small, minority and women-owned businesses. Treasury's PARTNERSHIPS '97 was held at the Radisson Plaza hotel in Alexandria, VA and included a networking luncheon featuring Treasury prime contractors and program managers, seminars on topical small business issues, one-on-one counseling and procurement opportunities. For more information, contact the procurement small business specialist for your bureau. (tlaloc.garcia@treas.sprint.com)

GAO Decisions Regarding Federal Supply Schedule Procurements

by Kevin Whitfield

Under Comptroller General Hearings No. B-274626 and B-274626.2, Intelligent Decisions Inc (IDI) protested the actions of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in conjunction with a request for quotations (RFQ) for personal computers, related software and hardware.

In June 1996, DOJ identified a need for an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 computers to be used in its consolidated office network system, and the contracting



officer concluded that she could do so through a Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) buy. Thereafter, DOJ's technical representative contacted 10 FSS vendors (including WIN and IDI), outlined the requirement and requested submission of descriptive literature and price lists for various configurations of computer systems.

On August 8, the agency issued the RFQ to six vendors, requesting GSA FSS price quotations for Intel Pentium 133 or Pentium 166 processors. Award was to be made on a best value basis. Six offers were received; however the technical representative found that WIN's proposal (to provide Pentium 133s at a price of \$1,679 each and Pentium 166s at \$1,868 each) did not include pricing for the Windows 3.1 software license. As this was a requirement communicated by the technical representative, WIN was allowed to submit a revised quotation of \$1,832 for the Pentium 133 and \$1,993 for the Pentium 166. DOJ decided to eliminate the Pentium 133 from consideration after comparing the relatively small price differential to the Pentium 166. Of the quotes received for the Pentium 166, WIN's was the lowest, followed by International Data Products at \$2,047, NYMA at \$2,102 and IDI at \$2,195 and \$2,334 each respectively. DOJ determined that WIN's quotation offered the best value and should receive the contract award.

IDI subsequently filed a protest alleging that DOJ conducted discussions only with WIN. The Comptroller General determined that vendors' quotes in response to a RFQ for FSS products are not required to define exactly what the vendor would supply at what price; such information is defined within their FSS contract. As such responses are merely intended to identify suitable products available on the FSS, the agency can seek additional information from vendors after the submission of quotations. The Comptroller General concluded that DOJ's request for additional information regarding the Windows

software license was appropriate in the context of a FSS buy and denied the protest.

Other Comptroller General cases that may be of interest include Case No. B-275303, where the Comptroller General determined that repurchase, following termination for default, through issuance of a delivery order under a FSS contract is proper where the agency has an immediate need for the equipment and there are no known sources of supply other than the FSS contractor and the defaulted contractor. Under Case No. B-274785, the Comptroller General determined that under regulations governing FSS use, the agency met its responsibility to select the best value items at the lowest overall price after reviewing the General Services Administration's automated pricing and product information system and reasonably determining that the selected FSS contractor's product meets the agency's needs. These cases are indicative of increased Government wide usage of FSS contracts to meet existing needs, such as IRS' TDPI program noted in another article within this newsletter. FSS contracts can provide faster contract awards, require less administrative effort and are now easier to use due to GSA's easing of such past requirements as maximum order limits and contractor discounts. Copies of the aforementioned Comptroller General cases can be obtained by calling 202-622-0248. (kevin.whitfield@treas.sprint.com)

Treasury Multi-User Contracts Updated

by Terri T. Toplisek

The *Department of the Treasury Multi-User Contracts List* has been revised. Please replace the copy that was included in our May/June 1996 newsletter, *Procurement Whatchamacallit* with the attached list. Thanks to ATF, Customs, DO, IRS, USSS, and representatives for contributing to this new list.

Multi-user contracts *may* offer savings through quantity price breaks and eliminating the administrative costs of negotiating contracts; however, bureaus are advised to exercise care in using these contracts. Contracting officers should become familiar with the contract terms and conditions before deciding to use the contracts.

Any additions, deletions, or revisions to the list should be submitted, as they are available to Terri Toplisek by calling Terri at 622-1241. (terri.toplisek@treas.sprint.com)

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Update

by Angelie Jackson

FAC 90-46 was published in the Federal Register on March 17, 1997. Subject areas include: Gratuities; Electronic Contracting; OFPP Policy Letter 93-1, "Management Oversight of Service Contracting;" Performance Incentives for Fixed-priced Contracts; Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements; Buy American Act - Construction; Collection of Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions Award Data; Allowability of Foreign Selling Costs; Independent Research and Development/Bid Proposal Costs in Cooperative Agreements; Prompt Payment; Attorneys' Fees in GAO Protests; Contractor's Purchasing Systems Reviews; Performance-based Payments; and various corrections to previous FACs. All are effective May 16, 1997, with the exception of Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements, which was effective March 17, 1997.

Note: The revised FAR is scheduled to be issued in May 1997.

Modular Contracting

A proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 1997. The proposed rule amends the FAR to address the requirements of the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996, regarding acquisition of information technology using modular contracting techniques. A definition of modular contracting is added to FAR 39.002, and 39.103 addresses modular contracting.

Internet News

The Federal Acquisition Virtual Library is continually growing and improving. It has a new look and more information for procurement professionals. In January 1997, OFPP was added. One can find the most recently issued OFPP Memoranda, Executive Orders, Procurement Policy Guides to Best Practices, OFPP Testimony. A search of all OFPP documents/reports is underway (coming soon). Electronic Catalogs was also added in January. The List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) was added in March 19, 1997. Other resources added are: GSA Advantage On-Line Shopping Catalog, GSA Legal Resources FEDLAW Law Library. There is more...check it out at www.arnet.gov

TAI Offers Research for the Acquisition Professional Course

The Treasury Acquisition Institute (TAI) has established a

new course entitled "Research for the Acquisition Professional." The course provides information on research tools acquisition professionals can use to keep informed of the many changes that impact Government procurement. The changes include legislative and statutory requirements, Federal Acquisition Regulation revisions, Executive Orders, OMB guidance, and judicial decisions. Among the potential sources of information covered by the course are libraries, databases and directories, experts and the Internet. The first class was conducted on May 1 and the next class is scheduled for July 7. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, TAI intends to schedule additional course dates as well.

A listing of acquisition research internet sites discussed during the course can be obtained by contacting Kevin Whitfield at 622-0248. Sylvia Ball, the TAI's Assistant Program Manager, may be contacted at 283-1372 for additional information.

U.S. Secret Service - Contract Specialist (GS-1102-13);
Location - Washington, D.C. Call Steve Reggetz at
435-6940 for more information.

LOOK FOR MORE NEWS IN JULY!

REASSIGNMENT/PROMOTION NEWS

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Kevin Whitfield



Karen Galloway and **Ronald Venable** were selected as the newest Treasury Office of Procurement interns. Karen is presently assigned to the Financial Management Service's Acquisition Management Division and Ron is presently assigned to the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Contract Administration. Karen previously worked as a legal assistant for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Administrative Management at Bowie State University. Ronald retired as a Master Sergeant from the U.S. Army. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration and Management from LaRoche College in Pittsburgh, PA. Over the past three years, he was a construction inspector for the Public Works Directorate at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

We congratulate Karen and Ron on their selections and look forward to working with them during their tenure as Treasury procurement interns.

CONTRACTING VACANCY IN TREASURY